

from the essential needs for any great length of time.

Reports from the central West indicate that many factories are closing down. Industries in New England and the Northwest secured by water are in a more fortunate situation, as they draw upon storage during the months of open transportation. As a result of the shutters of mines in the central competitive fields it is necessary to ship coal from Eastern and Southern fields to the West, making an exceptionally long railroad haul.

The Railroad Administration still has a great quantity of coal in cars held on sidings waiting distribution or for essential uses.

Officials foresee an early shutdown of much of the industry of the country unless the production situation improves considerably in the next week or two. So new railroads from the mines were reported to-day and a steady accession of workmen is expected as the holidays draw near and the determination of the Government becomes plain.

The Senate may take steps to find out whether former Secretary McAdoo was right about the profits of the bituminous coal operators. Senator Johnson (S. N. Y.) introduced today a resolution asking the Secretary of the Treasury to transmit any information he can concerning the profits of the coal concerns in 1916, 1917 and 1918. It was a concurrent resolution, and Senator Smoot (Utah) protested that it ought to be a joint resolution.

After some discussion on this point the matter was postponed, but it was with the understanding that the resolution would be passed later.

MIDWEST HIT BY ICY WINDS; MANY SUFFER

Miners' Officer Says Hard Coal Men May Aid Fight.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

CHICAGO, Dec. 2.—The whole middle West was in the grip of an icy spell to-day that sent the thermometer swinging to zero and caused untold misery to those without fuel.

No developments occurred in the coal situation to-day that betokened signs of early relief. Frank Farrington, president of the Illinois Mine Workers, indirectly urged the anthracite miners to assist the soft coal strikers.

"There is a strong likelihood that the anthracite men will come to the aid of the bituminous miners of the central states," said Farrington. "The people in Washington must remember that in the past the soft coal miners have come to the aid of the anthracite men when it was needed."

A report from Des Moines to-night said of prospects of the strike being terminated in the Iowa fields by granting the miners' demands for 10 per cent. increase. The report said operators would have to charge \$1 a ton more for coal.

A report from Middletown, Ky., said that some union miners had accepted the Government's increase of 14 per cent. and returned to work.

No change was reported in the Illinois situation, which employ 50,000 to 70,000 miners. Gov. Lowden was considering calling for volunteers.

Reports from Indianapolis indicated that union miners will be granted a 10 per cent. increase. The Government is considering accepting the Government's terms. Gov. Goodrich communicated with local union heads and expressed confidence that an agreement would be reached.

In Chicago plans went forward for restricting industry to conserve fuel. All electric advertising signs were dimmed tonight and about half the street lights had been cut off. It was estimated that more than 8,000 industrial plants would have to close and that 300,000 workers would be idle.

St. Louis reported that business houses will open at 9 and must close at 5, and that non-essential industries get to more coal.

ONLY 40 OF 100,000 MINERS GO TO WORK

None Report at 137 Plants in Western Pennsylvania.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 2.—Of a total of 100,000 miners, only 40 are reported for work to-day at the pits of the coal companies operating in the unionized districts of central and western Pennsylvania. The forty men returned to work in the mines of the Conifer Coal Mining Company at Conifer, in Jefferson county. About 400 are employed in the Conifer mines.

In the western Pennsylvania district not a coal digger made his appearance at any of the 137 mines which have been idle since the strike was first called.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 2.—The supply of coal for industrial and domestic purposes in the Pittsburgh district is steadily decreasing, and unless there is an end to the strike of union miners soon it will be necessary for some mills to close.

This statement was made to-day by officials connected with the Federal Fuel Administration, all of whom were looking anxiously to the immediate future.

To the present, the industry has been shut down in Pittsburgh for lack of coal, but from points near by to-day some reports of fuel shortage. One big mill at Sharon, Pa., was said to be without coal, and others had supplies for only a short time. Plants of the United States Steel Corporation, however, were reported as being able to operate for weeks to come.

Lack of Coal Stops Mining.

BUTTE, Mont., Dec. 2.—The Anaconda Copper Mining Company is preparing to close all its mines and smelters in this state because of the coal shortage.

Officials of the company announced to-day about 12,000 men will be thrown out of work. Other mines will be affected by the shutdown, which also will curtail operations in industries closely associated with mining.

Conferring on Rail Wages.

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If the strike continues indefinitely and further begins to feel the pinch the French ships will be unable to leave. It is further argued that a general tieup of export freight is not unlikely. Goods booked to be taken abroad may be left lying on the docks because the ships scheduled to carry them decide not to come to a coalless port.

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COAL ORDER WILL BE A BLOW TO N. Y. PORT

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